

## REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,635,727). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,635,727) and optionally in view of Conway (U.S. Patent No. 4,462,917).

The Examiner objected to claims 5-7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, the Examiner allowed claims 10-22.

In order to obtain the allowance of claim 1, the third paragraph of claim 1 has been amended after the word “agent” and before the word “capable” to include the words “selected from the group consisting of ammonium titanyl citrate, ammonium titanyl tartarate, ammonium titanyl gluconate, and mixtures thereof, said cross-linking agent being”. Claim 5 which previously included the words “selected from the group consisting of ammonium titanyl citrate, ammonium titanyl tartarate, ammonium titanyl gluconate, and mixtures thereof” has been canceled. Original claims 2-4 and 6-9 are all dependent from claim 1 and call for gelling agents and their amounts, the cross-linking agent ammonium titanyl citrate, the amounts of the cross-linking agent in the delayed cross-linked fracturing fluid, that the fracturing fluid further comprises a proppant and that the fracturing fluid further comprises a gel breaker.

It is respectfully submitted by the Applicants that claim 1 as amended and dependent claims 2-4 and 6-9 are now allowable and it is respectfully submitted that such claims should now be allowed along with allowed claims 10-22.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed on December 23, 2004.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment; Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Stephanie A. Bayliss  
Stephanie A. Bayliss

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Respectfully submitted,

C. Clark Dougherty Jr.

C. Clark Dougherty, Jr.  
Registration No. 24,208  
McAfee & Taft  
Tenth Floor, Two Leadership Square  
211 North Robinson  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102  
405-235-9621 (Telephone)  
405-235-0439 (Facsimile)  
E-Mail: [clark.dougherty@mcafeetaft.com](mailto:clark.dougherty@mcafeetaft.com)  
Attorney for Applicant